

Ag Conference Call Meeting Notes

September 20, 2006

Present: Tom McCarthy, Scott Wilson, Cindy Martens, Jeff Prier, Ken Hessenius, Dan Olson, Bill Gibbons, Randy Clark, Marlon Mueller

Next Conference Call: Wednesday October 18th, 9-10:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

Bedding barns for confined cattle were discussed. These are confinement facilities and must contain their manure at all times. If they are building stacking pads for containment they must be concrete or meet earthen basin standards if they are compacted dirt. It is highly suggested that these pads be roofed so that there isn't the extra water to deal with. Several producers/consultants are asking if there can be runoff from the stacking pad to a buffer strip or similar area. No leaching from these manure containment structures will be allowed.

Permitted Facilities that are not obtaining authorization to use or are not getting their construction inspections. This has become a problem as many are ignoring their permits and are populating without getting a construction inspection or an authorization to populate. Engineering will now be bolding #4 in the permit and addressing it in the cover letter to remind producers to get both items. If they do not do these be sure to send a NOV letter, copying the engineer assigned to the project. This will cause the facility to become a Tier II.

Authorization to Use Form- It was suggested by several in the field offices that it would be helpful for the engineers to attach a form to the construction permit that the producer can use to get authorization to populate. We get many calls asking what to say and it would be a helpful reminder to the producer that this must be done. Marlon stated that it did sound like a good idea and they would work on this form.

Site Surveys- If you have a site survey that is too close to call require that they obtain a surveyor to prove the distances. The burden of proof is on the producer to make sure they can meet their distances. If you want to have the survey sent to you in the FO that can be done if time allows or if you'd like to move the site survey along just note the requirement in your site survey to the engineer and they will follow up to make sure the distances are able to be met. It was brought up whether we need to require a surveyor for Master Matrix distances if they are too close to call? Since this is a County tool we are unclear whether it's a DNR responsibility. This topic will be discussed further at the Supervisors Meeting in October.

Concrete Inspections- If it's a permitted project, be sure that the assigned review engineer is getting a copy of your concrete inspection. If you aren't going to be able to do a concrete inspection, but you know they are building, please send the engineer an email so that they know.

Reducing AUC with Consent Order- Randy stated he has reconsidered his previous opinion that confinements can reduce animal unit capacity (AUC) by entering into a consent order. He is now convinced that the definition of AUC in Iowa Code subsection 459.102(7) and the directions for calculating AUC in Iowa Code subsections 459.201(3,4) and 459.301(3) do not allow the DNR the flexibility to agree to reduce AUC in this manner. Randy acknowledged that we initially rely on producers to tell us what the AUC is but once that is established it cannot be reduced unless confinement building(s) are abandoned or converted to another use as provided in Iowa Code subsection 459.201(4). Some producers have indicated a desire to enter into consent orders for this purpose but so far none have actually done so.

P-Index Based Plans- Some producers are submitting their P-Index based plans a year early as they have them done. This is fine, but they will need to resubmit a complete P-Index based plan within the next four years, they

don't get an extra year. Example: plan is due 2007, they submit in 2006-next complete plan is due in 2010, not 2011.

P-Index Based Plans-When this plan is due they must have complete soil sampling on all fields that are submitted with the plan. They can not have any incomplete sampling. There is no leeway or no exceptions to this.

RUSLE2 Profile Erosion Calculation Record is required to be submitted with all complete P-Index based plans.

MAC Database should be released within the next month according to Calvin.

DDGS – if feeding highly recommended that they sample and apply at the P rate for the crop and use extra commercial fertilizer if more N is needed. If they apply at the N rate they will most likely be over applying their P.

DNR Evaluation Rule was briefly discussed. Questions were asked regarding the designated areas. Use the coverage on the AFO siting maps, your knowledge of the area, Sportsmen's Atlas, or if something is pointed out to you by a concerned citizen. Look most specifically at the site location and secondarily at the manure application fields.

In karst areas –

For evaluating the potential site of a structure: Use the determinations provided by the AFO Siting Atlas map, including "potential karst" and/or correspondence with IGS.

For evaluating MMP fields: Use the areas on the interactive AFO Siting Atlas map that are shown as "karst (within 1,000 ft. of a sinkhole)," unless you have some other knowledge of karst in that area.

Talk to Ken if you have questions on this rule.

Respectfully Submitted-Cindy Martens-10/9/06.